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NEW ORLEANS

Marcello-O'Hara Bribe Is Alleged

An alleged $5,000 bribe paid by Jefferson Parish rackets figure Carlos Marcello to former Criminal Dist. Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara was disclosed Thursday.

The reference was contained in a copy of a June 28 letter from John Wall, head of the federal Organized Crime Strike Force in New Orleans, to Atty. Gen. William J. Guste Jr. Copies of the letter were distributed to newsmen by the strike force after Wall appeared before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

The jury is investigating transcripts of tape recorded conversations by Pershing Gervais, a former government informer, with Criminal Dist. Court Judges Jerome Winsberg and Charles R. Ward and involving O'Hara.

Winsberg and Ward had not taken office when the conversations took place. O'Hara now is retired on disability.

Wall appeared before the grand jury by invitation. Guste also was in the jury room, the first time in state history that an attorney general had been allowed to attend a grand jury session.

Guste said his visit was made possible by a state law which went into effect on Wednesday. He also said that he was personally supervising the investigation.

Wall's letter which was sent [illegible] the grand jury with the recorded conversations described [illegible] only as [illegible] memorandum [illegible] Sept. [illegible] 1970 regarding [illegible]

[illegible] volving a Los Angeles [illegible]

[illegible] and three other men were indicted in connection with an alleged plot to steal [illegible] from the Los Angeles office of Paine, Webber, Jackson and Curtis in December 1967.